

## Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 ( ISO ) W  
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R 121740Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3086

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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MADRID PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI  
ROME FOR ILLING

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN RADIO RENASCENCA CASE

REFS: (A) LISBON 3140; (B) LISBON 3211

SUMMARY: WHILE STRUGGLE FOR CONTROL OF PRESS IN PORTUGAL HAS  
CENTERED ON HIGHLY-VISIBLE "REPUBLICA" AFFAIR, FIGHT DETERMINING  
FATE OF CHURCH-OWNED RADIO RENASCENCA HAS CONTINUED. CHURCH  
AUTHORITIES ARE KEEPING EYE ON "REPUBLICA" DEVELOPMENTS BUT  
THEIR ACTIONS INDICATE THEY ARE NOT AWAITING RESOLUTION OF  
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THAT MATTER BEFORE TAKING INITIATIVES OF THEIR OWN. IN CONTRAST

TO REPUBLICA ISSUE, GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE IN THIS CASE APPEARS TO BE ONE OF BENEVOLENT NEUTRALITY. END SUMMARY

1. THE RADIO VOICE OF CATHOLIC CHURCH IN PORTUGAL, RADIO RENASCENCA (RR) CEASED TO REPRESENT VISS OF HIERARCHY SHORTLY AFTER APRIL 1974. ON MAY 27, 1975 ALL SEMBLANCE OF CHURCH AUTHORITY IN LISBON STUDIOS ENDED WITH THEIR OCCUPATION BY DISSIDENT EMPLOYEES (REF A). DISSIDENTS' ACT, COMING IN MIDST OF GROWING REPUBLICA CRISIS, TOOK ON ADDED SIGNIFICANCE SINCE IT PITTED WORKERS NOT ONLY AGAINST HIERARCHY'S "MANAGEMENT COUNCIL" BUT AGAINST GOP-NAMED "MIXED COMMISSION" APPOINTED TO RUN STATION PENDING DISPUTE'S RESOLUTION.

2. OCCUPATION OF LISBON STUDIOS PRECIPITATED CHAIN OF EVENTS WHOSE CONCLUSION HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED. IN SUCCESSION, FOLLOWING HAS OCCURRED:

(A) EMPLOYEES OF RR STUDIOS IN OPORTO DISASSOCIATED SELVES FROM LISBON EVENTS, BEGAN WORKING IN COORDINATION WITH MANAGEMENT COUNCIL;

(B) CHURCH AUTHORITIES REACTED STRONGLY AND PUBLICLY TO OCCUPATION, DECLARING THAT RR AFFAIR COULD LEAD TO CHURCH/STATE BREAK;

(C) JUNE 7 -- LISBON DISSIDENTS OCCUPIED ANOTHER RR STUDIO; OPORTO WORKERS REACT BY DRAWING CLOSER TO HIERARCHY'S POSITION;

(D) JUNE 9 -- HONORING REQUEST OF MANAGEMENT COUNCIL, REUTER AND FRANCE PRESSE ENDED NEWS SERVICE TO RR LISBON; DISSIDENTS ANNOUNCED THEY WILL COOPERATE WITH (COMMUNIST DOMINATED) RADIO CLUBE PORTUGUES AND SUBSTITUTE NEWS SERVICE FROM TASS; LISBON NON-DISSIDENTS ORGANIZED "AD-HOC COMMISSION," ALIGNED SELVES WITH HIERARCHY AND RECEIVED SUPPORT OF OPORTO WORKERS.

(E) JUNE 10 -- MANAGEMENT COUNCIL SUCCEEDED IN SILENCING RR LISBON'S FM TRANSMITTERS; RUMORS CIRCULATED THAT COUNCIL HAD REQUESTED CUTOFF OF ELECTRICITY TO STUDIOS OCCUPIED BY DISSIDENTS; DISSIDENTS AND ALLIES IN REST OF PORTUGUESE NEWS MEDIA THREATENED RETALIATORY 48 HOUR BOYCOTT OF REUTER AND FRANCE PRESSE;

(F) JUNE 11 -- MINISTRY OF MASS COMMUNICATION ISSUED COMMUNIQUE NOTING BOYCOTT THREAT, ADDING THAT REUTER AND FRANCE PRESSE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ACT (AS THEY DID) IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONFORMITY WITH THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER TERMS OF CONTRACT; MINISTRY STATEMENT ADDED THAT FOR WIRE SERVICES TO HAVE GOTTEN INVOLVED IN DISPUTE BY ACTING CONTRARY TO CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPROPER.

3. REPUBLICA IS EXPECTED TO REAPPEAR ON JUNE 13 WITH SOCIALISTS HAVING DECIDED TO TREAT MATTER AS A VICTORY. NEVERTHELESS, GIVEN THE ANTAGONISTIC ELEMENTS ON THE REPUBLICA

STAFF THE REOPENING IS STILL BY NO MEANS A CERTAIN EVENT.

4. COMMENT: FOR BETTER PART OF ONE YEAR CHURCH AUTHORITIES  
SUFFERED LOSS OF CONTROL OVER RR IN RELATIVE SILENCE. NOT  
ONLY HAS THAT SILENCE NOW ENDED, BUT HIERARCHY CLEARLY HAS  
GONE ON OFFENSIVE. (ACCORDING TO SOCIALIST PRY SOURCE,  
CARDINAL PATRIARCH OF LISBON ALERTED PS TO CHURCH'S DECISION  
AT TIME HE CONFERRED WITH SOARES ON REPUBLICA MATTER - REF B.)  
HIERARCHY'S NEW-FOUND AGGRESSIVENESS HAS NOT GONE UNNOTICED,  
WITH COMMUNIST-LINING "DIARIO DE LISBOA" CRITICIZING (JUNE 11)  
COUNCIL OF THE REVOLUTION AND "GENERALITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES  
AND UNIONS" FOR THEIR SILENCE AND FEAR "TO ENTER INTO OPEN  
CONFLICT WITH THE CHURCH." RELEASE OF MINISTRY OF MASS  
COMMUNICATION COMMUNIQUE SUGGESTS THAT DIARIO'S EDITORIAL  
COMMENT IS ON THE MARK.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Draft Date:** 12 JUN 1975  
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